WASHINGTON STATE LGBTQ COMMISSION

Public Meeting
October 18th, 2024 – 10:00am-5:00pm
Port Townsend, Jefferson County

**October 18th, 2024**

- Meeting called to order by Co-Chair KB at 10:04am
- Co-Chair asked for a roll call
    - Present:
        - Commissioner Darlin Blanco Lozano
        - Commissioner Alvaro Figueroa
        - Commissioner Tobi Hill-Meyer
        - Commissioner Amasai Jeke
        - Commissioner M. Kelly-Barroga
        - Commissioner Matt Landers
        - Commissioner Everett Maroon
        - Commissioner Leiyomi Preciado
        - Commissioner Roo Ramos
        - Commissioner Mark Rosén
        - Commissioner Omni Romero
        - Commissioner Jason Victor Serinus
    - Excused
        - Commissioner Ebo Barton
        -
    - Unexcused
        - Commissioner Abigayle Coleman
    - Staff
        - Lisa Keating, Exec Dir

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        - Sawyer Tuttle, Executive Assistant & Communications Coordinator
        - Sam Fennell, Operations & Policy Manager
- Welcome, land acknowledgement, housekeeping
- Approval of Agenda and Minutes
    - **MOTION: adopt the minutes by Landers, seconded by Rosén; approved unanimously.**
- Grounding and Icebreaker
- Reports:
    - Legislative Advisor Updates: Rep. Rude
        - Serving in Legislature since 2019, same year Commission created. He wrote the amendment to add the Legislative Advisor positions to ensure connection between Commission and Legislators
    - Staff
        - *See report*
        - Executive Director Keating
            - Implementation of Friday reports
            - Tracking harassment issues in Peninsula School District, Spokane-area district prohibition on forming GSAs, Westboro Baptist harassment of student athlete (Commissioner Ramos praises district's reaction)
        - Request for a little more detail in report by Commissioner Maroon
        - Explanation of Commission Budget
        - Sam - Youth Council - working on how they want to engage with the Commission; two members presenting at Plenary tomorrow
        - Sam - Survey Update - up to 3,800 respondents currently; working on additional outreach and equity reviews
            - **MOTION - form ad-hoc survey committee by Maroon, seconded by Rosén. Passed unanimously.**
            - Commissioners KB, Romero, Blanco Lozano, Maroon interested.

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- Executive Committee - presented by Landers - planned public meetings, set proposals for 2025
- Communications & Outreach - no update
- Legislative - presented by Hill-Meyer - met regularly, creation of toolkit, discussed potential 2025 issues
    - Rep. Rude - should legislators expect specific requests, and what would be the timeline? – Commission will be doing prioritization later today.
- Intergenerational - presented by Maroon - held productive meetings with community members. Talking about histories between people of different generations and potential storytelling efforts.
- Workgroup Updates
    - Youth Advisory Council Taskforce (*see report*)
    - America 250 - (Figueroa) quarterly meeting met recently; presentations from national groups. 2 years away from celebrations.
    - Council on Health Disparities - (Hill-Meyer) met recently, working on authorization for a regular reporting framework. Did not pass in Legislature in 2024 - will try again in 2025.
    - Poverty Reduction Workgroup - no update
- Individual Commissioner Updates:
    - KB - updates on Pierce County organizations and HIV services
    - Serinus - Responding to Quilcene Public Schools issue with book ban resolution. Strong supportive community response, resolution was tabled.
    - Landers - presented at GSBA Economic Development Conference, talked about history of Commission, LGBTQ supplier diversity
    - Romero - works at Pride Foundation, fellowship program applications go live on Trans Day of Visibility next year ($15,000), Pride Foundation scholarships opening soon, TriCities Pride starting up, WSU TriCities Pride flag stolen and resulting community conversation
    - Blanco Lozano - UW Medicine working on Center for LGBTQ+ Healthcare and Gender Affirming Care
    - Hill-Meyer - teaching new class

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        - Preciado - MC for Bainbridge and Poulsbo prides, delegate to DNC in Chicago, on kitchen cabinet for Harris-Walz campaign
        - Rosén - local Walla Walla pride organization forming
- Legislative Toolkit
    - Created by Sawyer; available in OneDrive
    -
- (break for lunch)
- Legislative Advisor Updates - Sen. Claire Wilson
    - Draft bill in response to parental rights initiative (I-2081) - clarify, align with existing state law - early action bill
    - Bill on school districts violating state law (SB 5237) from last year to be reintroduced
    - OSPI "red flag" districts who might be violating policies and practices
    - Work on experiences in state Corrections system
    - New leadership in Senate, many new members of Legislature after elections
- Legislative Advisor Updates - Rep. Nicole Macri
    - Focused on housing and healthcare
    - Required coverage for IVF - challenges on financial impact on state budget
    - I-2081 response
    - Maroon - how do you feel LGBTQ+ rights are protected in assisted living / nursing care? Answer - have done some policy on training in past, ongoing conversations with long term care ombuds (which is woefully underfunded), independent living falls within a regulatory loophole
    - HEP-C treatments for people facing high barriers to care
    - Anticipating tight budget in 2025
- Overview of Roberts Rules of Order (video)
- Overview of Commissioner OneDrive
- VOTE - Executive Committee Elections
    - Co-Chair

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        - Candidate(s): Jason Victor Serinus
        - **VOTE: Landers propose Commissioner Serinus as Co-Chair, Hill-Meyer (second) - Vote: 10-0-2**
    - Vice Chair
        - Candidate(s): Amasai Jeke (Commissioner Roo self-nominated and then withdrew their candidacy)
        - **VOTE: Maroon propose Commissioner Jeke as Vice Chair, Serinus second. Vote: 10-2-0**
    - Secretary
        - Candidate(s): Matt Landers (Commissioner Roo declined nomination by Landers)
        - **VOTE: Serinus propose Landers, Romero second. Vote: 12-0-0**
    - 2025 Executive Committee:
        - Co-Chair Everett Maroon (until December 2025)
        - Co-Chair Jason Victor Serinus (until December 2026)
        - Vice Chair Amasai Jeke
        - Secretary Matt Landers
- 2025 Public Meeting Dates & Locations
    - PROPOSED
        - January 17-18 - Olympia
        - March 14 - Bellingham / Whatcom County
        - May 16-17 - Leavenworth / Chelan/Douglas County
        - August 22 - TriCities / Adams, Benton, Franklin County
        - October 17-18 - Olympia
    - Discussion:
        - Preciado: Add a SW Washington location (maybe replace Bellingham)
        - Roo: consider Indigenous cultural elements (timing, practices - Camas root in April)
        - (table until after guest presentation)

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- Presentation by National Parks Service
    - **Seattle Ethnographic Study and the Puget Sound LGBTQ Historic Sites Project** / Dr. Allyson Brooks, Maddie Levesque
    - Historic significance: more than 50+ years old, meet specific criteria (architectural, cultural, archaeological, associated with a significant person)
    - Who decides? National Park Service, WA Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
    - NPS Underrepresented Communities Grant Program
        - Recognition that certain communities and sites were often not included
        - Grants: Yakima Valley Latino Study, Seattle Latino Society, Filipino-American Heritage Study, Black Heritage, Chinese Exclusion, LGBTQ+ Puget Sound Study
    - Reimagining of the National Register - With Rep. Santos - information provided by communities themselves, without agency filter
    - Seattle LGBTQ+ Survey - funding for WA LGBTQ COmmission to hire interns to help find places to include. 140 sites identified so far, and still growing.
    - No sites on national register in WA recognized for connecting to the LGBTQ community
    - Creating FB (Western Washington LGBTQ+ Historic Sites Project) and Instagram (WesternWAQueerHeritage) pages for engagement, HistoryPin.org (coming soon)
    - Questions on appropriate terminology, inclusion of 2-Spirit communities, Eastern Washington sites
- Return to 2025 Public Meeting Dates
    - Proposal to substitute March meeting to SW Washington for NW Washington
    - Proposal to substitute October meeting from Olympia to Spokane/Pullman
    - **MOTION: accept meetings as amended (Landers), seconded (Romero); Vote: 11-0-1**
- Overview of Upcoming Legislation
    - Empower Commissioners and staff to be active during the Legislative Session
    - Serinus - don’t forget seniors and their issues

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    - Romero - what are the values that we are starting with?
    - Maroon - strategic plan offers guidance
    - KB - consider affirming and culturally responsive language
    - List: seniors, education, healthcare, incarceration/justice-involved, homelessness/housing,
    - Staff will synthesize notes
- Public Comment
    - Julia Cochrane

Motion to adjourn at 3:58 by Landers, seconded Blanco Lozano, passed unanimously

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